

## NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BIRLOTTI'S GARDEN, Broadway.—CONNOR BOOGAN—CUB.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE STRANGER.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—HAMILTON.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—HARRY AND MA.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MARTHA O'DON.

OWEN A. FLEMING NEIGHBOR—LEAH.

HOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—GUY MANNING—COL.

LEAH BARK—SPIRIT OF '76—GILES SCROOGES' GHOST.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—TWO GIANTS, TWO

DWARFS.—BROTHERS DANCE, BURLINGTON, AC.—MAGIC FLUTE.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 84 Broadway.—BROTHERS

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, DANCE.

BROADWAY THEATRE, 435 Broadway.—SIMMONS.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway.—BALLETA

PANTOMIME, BURLINGTON, AC.—MAGIC FLUTE.

SALON DIABOLIQUE, 555 Broadway.—ROBERT HELLM.

COPPER INSTITUTE.—DAVENPORT BROTHERS.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 212 Broadway.—

CURIOSITIES AND LECTURES, FROM 9 A. M. TO 10 P. M.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—BROTHERS

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, DANCE, DANCE.

## WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Friday, May 6, 1864.

## THE GRAND CAMPAIGN OPENED.

The grand campaign has been opened, and with every prospect of the most glorious and complete success. We have the intelligence that our Army of the Potomac yesterday morning had crossed the Rapidan, without serious resistance; that General Lee had been compelled to fall back from the strongly fortified position where he held us at bay all winter, and that the opinion was entertained at Washington that he would probably retreat to Richmond without a battle, to avoid the danger of being flanked and cut off from the city.

We advanced this opinion some days ago, and from the simple fact that fortifications to Lee are now useless, as he can be turned out of them—whether on the Rapidan or at Richmond—by flanking him, and cutting off the arteries by which his army is subsisted from day to day. The combinations of General Grant are manifestly directed to this object. The advance of his Peninsular column up the York river to West Point proves it. The strong defenses of Richmond are no security to Lee against this movement; for in the destruction of his communications with the city his army and the city may both be lost.

We say, therefore, that we shall not be surprised if this Virginia campaign shall result not only in the retreat of Lee to Richmond, but in the rebel evacuation of the city and his retreat into North Carolina without a battle, in order to save his army. But, whether the election may be to fight or to fly, we are confident the result will be the same—the fall of the rebel capital, and with it the fall of Jeff. Davis and his exploded confederacy.

But, decisive as we think this will be in Virginia, the combinations of General Grant are not limited to General Lee. A rebel despatch of the 29th of April, from Dalton, Ga., says that "a large force of the enemy (Union), infantry, artillery and cavalry, attacked the pickets on the Ringgold road this morning, capturing ten and wounding several," which means that General Thomas was preparing to strike. He has a splendid army and a month's provisions waited in at Chattanooga. The rebellion is doomed and the end is nigh.

## THE SITUATION.

The campaign in Virginia is opened. The grand Army of the Potomac is on its onward march towards Richmond. It never was in better spirits, better organized or more hopeful of success. We learn that the army crossed the Rapidan yesterday without coming into collision with the enemy, and that General Lee has fallen back from his original strong position, and some doubts are expressed as to whether he will risk a fight this side of Richmond. Meantime, while the Army of the Potomac is advancing towards the rebel capital from the north, the Union forces are flanking it on the Peninsula. West Point, at the head of York river, was occupied by a portion of the troops on Monday, and the rebels there surrendered. We give in another part of the paper the issue of the impending battle. At any rate we may have intelligence of the most important action of the entire war.

The particulars of the evacuation, by the Union troops, and the subsequent burning of Washington, N. C., by some straggling marines and soldiers, are given in our columns to-day. Washington was a somewhat insignificant town, with only two thousand inhabitants in its most busy days.

We give very fully to-day the report of the sub-committee of Congress charged with investigating the alleged barbarity of the rebel troops at Fort Pillow, Tennessee. It appears that no quarter was extended to the vanquished, and that women and children, the wounded and sick, were indiscriminately murdered by the rebels in cold blood, the number of victims amounting to three hundred in all.

Our despatches from the Shenandoah valley yesterday report that rebel guerrillas made a raid on the railroad line, and captured three trains and destroyed \$200,000 worth of property belonging to the railroad company, yesterday morning at Bloomington Station, near Piedmont. The damage to the road was very trifling.

Among our Southern news to-day is a very interesting article from the *Macon (Ga.) Telegraph*, commenting upon a speech delivered by the rebel Vice President, Alexander H. Stephens, before the Georgia Legislature. His views are not regarded with much favor by the Southern journal. Mr. Stephens disapproved of the acts enacted by the Southern Congress relative to the currency, the military organizations and to the suppression of the habeas corpus. The speech is regarded as having a tendency to array the Georgia Legislature against the rebel government upon all the questions at issue.

Mr. Pierre Soule takes the trouble to drive, in a car

published in the *Charleston Mercury*, the report that he has taken unto himself a wife and left the confederacy. He says there is not a word of truth in the statement; and it would not probably be a matter of the slightest consequence if there was.

## CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the Committee on Commerce reported a bill to prevent smuggling. It provides that after the 1st day of August next all baggage and effects of passengers and all other articles coming into the United States from any foreign country shall be inspected, and if any dutiable articles shall be found the trunk, valise or other envelope shall be confiscated. The same provision applies to car or vessel, and also provides that they may be released by the Secretary of the Navy upon payment of \$50. The bill authorizes the appointment of additional inspectors at various points on the frontier. The House bill establishing a line of mail steamers between the United States and Brazil was passed, several amendments of the Senate Committee on Post Office and Pensions, and the subject was then laid aside. A joint resolution was reported permitting Surgeon General Schlessinger to accept a place of plate from the British government, in testimony of his services to two British officers in the Annapolis Hospital. The report of the committee appointed to investigate the facts regarding the horrible butchery of our troops by the rebels at Fort Pillow was presented, and twenty-five thousand copies offered to be printed. The House National Bank bill was then taken up. Mr. Sherman offered an amendment to the amendment of the clause affecting the Bank of Commerce, New York City. It allows the corporation to close the accounts of the bank if at any time the capital shall be less than five millions, with a surplus of twenty per cent. This was adopted. Mr. Sumner moved a substitute for the Finance Committee's amendment. It provides that every association shall pay to the United States a duty of one per cent upon its circulation, one-half of one per cent on its deposits, and one-half of one per cent on its capital stock above the amount invested in United States bonds each half year after January, 1864. After some debate, without coming to a vote on the proposition, the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the bill to reimburse Pennsylvania for expenditures incurred in repelling the rebel invasion of the State last summer was discussed at considerable length. Finally it was agreed to appropriate seven hundred thousand dollars for the pay of the Pennsylvania militia, and fifteen million dollars to defray the expenses of other States in repelling rebel raids, and in this shape the bill passed. A resolution dispensing with night sessions for the present was adopted. Mr. Gooch, from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, made a report on the Fort Pillow massacre, and moved that forty thousand copies be printed. The House then adjourned.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamship *Ocean Queen*, Captain Tinkley, from Aspinwall on the 26th ult., arrived at this port yesterday morning. She brings the California mails and important intelligence from Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and the Central American States. The elections in Chile resulted in the triumph of the government party. From Peru we learn that there were fears of serious trouble occurring between that country and Spain on account of the inability to satisfy the claims of the latter for injuries sustained by some of her subjects at the hands of some Peruvians. Trouble was also brewing between Chile and Bolivia. The United States Minister in Chile had tendered the mediation of his government in the affair, but it was refused. The idea proposed by Peru, of a congress of all the American republics, was spreading rapidly in Chile and Bolivia, had answered categorically that they accepted, and other republics had favorably received the proposition.

The steamer *Golden Age* sailed from Panama at midnight, April 23, for San Francisco.

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon, Mr. A. A. Low, President, in the chair. A complimentary resolution to Captain Nichols was passed for his action in the matter of the recapture of the Chesapeake. The Secretary read a report in relation to encroachments on the harbor, which was received. A portrait of Richard Cobden was presented to the Chamber by Morris Ketchum, Esq., through Mr. William Allen Bryant. Resolutions were adopted in favor of the new telegraphic enterprise between America and Europe, via Siberia, Behring Straits, &c. An election of officers for the ensuing year was also held, when Mr. A. A. Low was again elected President. After transacting some further and unimportant business the Chamber adjourned.

The Commissioners of Charities and Correction have forwarded a communication to Comptroller Bennett calling his attention to an item of \$4,500 inserted in the tax levy for council fees on behalf of the Board. The Commissioners deny that the money is due, as the Council for the Corporation is legally bound to conduct their affairs. They also state that they have no knowledge of any such outstanding claims, and this item presents no reliable form. There are now 6,119 inmates of the institution—a decrease of twenty-six for the week. The number admitted was 1,209, and the number discharged, transferred or who died was 1,295.

The term of office of the present Tax Commissioners, J. W. Allen, Amos J. Williamson and J. W. Brown, expired on the 3d inst., and the Comptroller yesterday appointed J. W. Allen, Senator Woodruff and George H. Purser as the new Commissioners, who took the necessary oath before the Comptroller. It appears, however, that Messrs. Williamson and Brown refuse to surrender, alleging that the Comptroller has no power of appointment under the first section of the act passed April 14, 1862.

The Board of School Trustees of the Twentieth ward were engaged last evening in investigating charges of a very grave character, preferred by Dr. S. Caro, against one of the female teachers in Ward School No. 13. It appears a child of Dr. Caro's, a boy only six years old, had been on a visit to the country, and returned last Tuesday in time for school, and during the recess in the middle of the day, before leaving the classroom, he got into a conversation with a little boy named Jimmie on the subject of what he had seen during his visit to the country. In describing the numerous animals which attracted his attention while there, he, with the simplicity of childhood, said that, among other animals, he had seen a cock, which made expression came to the ears of the teacher, who, in a very brutal manner, as alleged by the father of the boy, took hold of him and rubbed his mouth full of soap, from the effect of which the boy suffered very severely. Upon the statement of Dr. Caro, which was fully corroborated by the little boy Jimmie, who witnessed the outrage, the Board passed a resolution suspending the teacher, and appointing a committee of three members to investigate the case. Six out of eight members voted for the resolution, and the school officers of the ward are determined to investigate the matter thoroughly, and if the young lady, whose name we withhold for the present, cannot clear herself of the grave charge preferred against her, she will be punished by immediate dismissal.

The Union Republican Central Committee held a meeting, corner of Twenty-third street and Broadway, last evening, Wm. L. Darling in the chair. The only business of public interest transacted was the making of arrangements for holding primary elections on the 18th of May to choose delegates to a State Convention, which will be held in the city of Syracuse on the 24th inst.

The Long Island Historical Society held their first annual meeting last evening. Captain Hall, the Arctic explorer, entertained the meeting by interesting statements concerning the icy regions, the inhabitants, and the progress of the expedition. He expressed the expectation of leaving again for the North on the 9th of June.

Judge Foster issued an order yesterday in the Fort Garret case compelling Comptroller Bennett to issue Corporate six per cent bonds to the amount of \$523,774, to consummate the purchase of the property, by Monday next, on pain of attachment. The bonds are required to be in sums of \$1,000 each, except the fractional amount of \$714, and will be dated from February 3, 1863.

The Walton-Matthews murder case was up before the Supreme Court, general term, yesterday, on the motion of ex-District Attorney Waterbury to sentence Jeffers, in accordance with the decision of the Court of Appeals. The counsel for the prisoner interposed an objection to the proceedings on the ground that under the law formerly in force abolishing capital punishment the life of the prisoner could not be jeopardized. The Court took the papers and reserved the decision. Jeffers was not in court.

A verdict of three thousand dollars damages was rendered against a butcher named James Harrington, in the Supreme Court yesterday, for running over a girl named Annabella Harrington, in the month of December, 1862, while the latter was crossing Dry street, near Broadway. This ought to be a warning to butcher boys with fast horses not to make a trotting course of our public thoroughfares.

In the case of Brooks vs. Graham, before Judge Day, where the plaintiff, an assignee, sought to recover the value of certain goods stolen from his custody by the Sheriff,

and sold at the instance of the defendant, the jury yesterday brought in a verdict for the plaintiff of \$1,008 77. An action has been commenced in the Court of Common Pleas against John Morrissey, by a Marican named Pablo de Arriba, to recover twenty-three thousand dollars, which, it is alleged, was lost at the gaming table. Fifteen thousand dollars of the amount are claimed to have been lost at Saratoga last summer, and the balance at the defendant's house in this city during the fall.

In the United States District Court, before Judge Shipman, the case of the United States vs. the Hamburg-American Packet Company's steamship *Barbara* was brought up yesterday. Some evidence was taken, and the case adjourned till this morning.

In the Court of Sessions yesterday Recorder Hoffman discharged the petit jurors until Monday next, in consequence of no cases being ready for trial before that time. The Court adjourned until this morning, at eleven o'clock, when a large number of indictments will be presented by the Grand Jury.

The trial of the Lawrence will case was resumed before Surrogate Tucker yesterday. Ex-Judge Dean opened for the prosecution, in place of Mr. Fullerton, and cross-examined the contestants' witnesses at great length.

In the Fullerton contempt case there were no further developments yesterday. No writ or order of arrest has been taken with the Sheriff to be served on the Surrogate, as has been erroneously stated in some of the papers. Up to the hour of closing his office yesterday the Sheriff knew of no such writ; nor has the Surrogate been served with any complaint for failure by Mr. Fullerton to appear. The question of the jurisdiction of the Superior Court Justices to charge Mr. Fullerton will come up for argument on the 10th instant in the Supreme Court, general term.

On the 22d of April eighty of the convicts in the State prison at San Quentin, California, attempted to escape by overpowering the guard. After a desperate fight, in which four of the convicts were killed and eight wounded, the escape was suppressed.

A decree just issued by King Victor Emmanuel closed all Italian ports, except in case of stress of weather, against war vessels or privateers, belonging to a delinquent State, having peace with them.

The stock market was weak yesterday, and a small decline in prices took place. There seems no disposition on the part of the public to become purchasers until after the result of the approaching battle in Virginia is known. Gold fluctuated between 177½ and 178½. Money continued easy. Government stocks were inactive and unchanged in price.

The radical changes in gold on Wednesday and yesterday have still further unsettled merchandise, and nearly all kinds of imported goods, and many kinds of domestic produce, are generally nominal. Foreign goods were firmly held and heavy. The movement of gold continued fair, but the excitement is rapidly subsiding. Cotton was steady.

## The Reconstruction of the Rebellious States—The House Bill.

The bill of Mr. Winter Davis, of Maryland, to "guarantee to certain States whose governments have been usurped or overthrown a republican form of government," has passed the House of Representatives by a vote of seventy-three to fifty-nine—a party vote, as between the opposition and administration elements.

The federal constitution says that "the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government," and Mr. Davis, in his title, assumes that his bill is a constitutional requirement. He assumes that the war has destroyed the rebellious States, as States, and that in reconstructing them and guaranteeing them "a republican form of government" Congress is bound to remove their despotic institutions of slavery. This is a new interpretation of the constitution; but we travel fast in these days. Honest Abe Lincoln, in his *Hodge*, or *hodge-podge*, letter, honestly confesses that in his reconstruction expedients he has ventured to violate the constitution in order to save it; but Mr. Winter Davis, in taking the same course, quotes the constitution itself in his justification. Who shall decide when such doctors disagree?

The bill of Mr. Davis, assuming that the State governments subject to the rebellion have ceased to exist, provides for a State convention in each, under a provisional military governor, to organize a new government. To this end, instead of Mr. Lincoln's one-tenth, the bill further provides that a majority of the popular vote (free whites) shall be required in the election of the delegates, and that all repentant rebels below the grade of colonel shall have the right to vote. This is a decided improvement on Old Abe's one-tenth idea; but the bill declares that in this work of reconstruction in any State the people thereof must submit to the decree of Congress that "involuntary servitude is forever prohibited, and the freedom of all persons is guaranteed in the said State." The bill next very properly repudiates all the rebel debts or scrip of every State concerned; and, further, "every person who shall hereafter hold or exercise any office, civil or military, in the rebel service, State or Confederate, except the office be merely municipal, or below the grade of colonel, is declared not to be a citizen of the United States."

Now, we contend that the State governments of the rebellious States have not been destroyed by this war, but that they still exist, and that, with the suppression of the armed forces of the rebellion, those States, with their local governments as they were before the war, are restored to the general authority of the Union. The constitutional duty of treating them would be to hold and protect them by the armed forces of the United States as members of the Union, but to leave the people of each State to take their own time in re-establishing practically their local governments under the "old flag," and in their returning Representatives to Congress. Hold them subject to the federal laws applying to all the States, but give them, when reclaimed from rebel rule, their own time and their own way in reorganizing their local affairs.

This simple plan of reconstruction would save a world of trouble; and as for the institution of slavery, the only way for its quiet, speedy and complete removal lies through a simple amendment of the constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery, and nothing more, as proposed in the bill which has passed the Senate. We presume, however, that the programme of this bill, which is Old Abe's programme revised and improved by Winter Davis, is to supersede the constitutional plan of reconstruction and abolition, although in denying the negroes concerned the right of suffrage Mr. Davis hazards the defeat of his scheme by the "human equality" radicals of the Senate. We must wait a little to see how he gets on in that body. "Rome was not built in a day."

THE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION REFORMING BACKWARDS.—It was stated in the Board of Aldermen recently—and we have stated the same facts before—that the Citizens' Association, which was formed to reform municipal abuses and reduce taxation, has actually succeeded in increasing the city taxes about a million and a half of dollars over the Comptroller's estimate. The association promised to reduce the taxes three millions; and this, added to the million and a half, shows them to be four millions and a half in arrears. This is reforming backwards and reducing by additions. A pretty sort of reformers these gentlemen are, indeed.

## Another Draft Threatened—The Peace of the City Again in Danger.

There have been rumors for some days, producing much uneasiness, to the effect that it is the intention of the Washington authorities to commence enforcing the draft in this city upon next Monday morning. Poorly, however, as we think of some of the blunderers at the national capital, we are reluctant to suspect them of seriously contemplating any sort of such criminal folly. It is known that very nearly all the United States troops recently in our city have been withdrawn and sent to the front, so that only some few remnants of State militia are now available for the purpose of putting down any outbreak, in case the rioters of last July should again come out of their holes. Obviously, therefore, while affairs are so circumstantially, it would be worse than folly—madness and criminal profligacy—to attempt any enforcement of the draft.

Our city quota is now all but full, only requiring some twenty-five hundred men for its completion, and these can easily be had before the end of this month if the present system of volunteering, as conducted by Mr. Orison Blunt, be not interfered with. Let this system be broken up, however, and the obnoxious draft made to take its place, and any child can foretell what will, in all human probability, be the immediate consequences. We shall have another riot, vaster and more "dangerously" organized than that which in last July struck terror throughout the country; we shall have an army of twenty thousand men recalled from the front, where they are needed against the rebel enemy, to protect the peace and property of Manhattan Island; we shall have a panic in the money market, which the present delicate state of our national currency is illly able to afford; we shall have bloodshed in our thoroughfares, scores of incendiary fires, and scores upon scores of houses gutted and pillaged; and, lastly, the victorious army of Grant, in its march upon the rebel capital, may be arrested by the tidings of an attempted revolution in its rear, just as was the army of Gettysburg, by the news that the commercial capital of the country was in a condition closely bordering upon utter anarchy.

We feel confident that General Dix is an officer possessing a mind too well balanced to make him a consenting party to any such measure, and we trust that he will use all the legitimate influence of his position to dissuade the Washington authorities from the design they are alleged to have in contemplation. Gen. Hays, too, must by this time be acquainted with the temper of our people, and should warn his superiors of the certain perils that will attend any repetition of the attempts at enforcing the measure, which failed so bloodily and disastrously in last July. Let the present volunteering system be continued, and we shall have the last man of our quota mustered in before the end of the present month; but let the draft again be insisted upon, and we regret feeling obliged to prophesy that not one single regiment can ever be raised under it, while it will probably require twenty or thirty of our best regiments from Grant's army to protect the peace and property of our city during the abortive effort to raise men under a system repugnant to all American ideas and to the genius and instincts of our people.

## The Great International Projects of the Day—Schemes of Napoleon.

The organ of the French government in this city published a day or two since an elaborate account of the advantages to arise to the commercial world from the construction of a railroad to be built across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, under the immediate patronage of the new Emperor of Mexico. It is, of course, easily understood that it is Napoleon who planned this scheme, with the intention of furthering the commercial prosperity of France, and at the same time dealing a blow to the American and English nations. That this Tehuantepec line will be constructed, and quickly too, none can doubt, as all the resources at the command of the Emperor of the French will be brought to bear upon this project. Those who can tunnel the Alps will find no difficulty in building a railroad over the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The French organ above referred to condemns the once favored plan of Napoleon—a Nicaragua canal—and asserts that this new scheme must become the first care of Maximilian. The Panama line being virtually in the hands of Americans and English, according to concessions obtained, France will oppose now all idea of a ship canal between the oceans, and by the immediate construction of a railroad, render a canal of less importance. Napoleon comprehends that such a line of communication opened would immensely benefit the commerce of France, as the articles chiefly manufactured by the people of that empire are in almost universal demand. Having through this proposed railroad obtained a vast proportion of the commerce of the West, Napoleon might count upon controlling the trade of India, to a great extent, by the completion of the Suez Canal, which, spite of the opposition of England, is "fast approaching completion. This done, France would take her rank as the first commercial Power in the world.

To avoid undue preponderance on the part of France, it behooves the people of the United States, of England, and of Russia, to see to it that their enterprises are carried out with the same spirit which distinguished Napoleon's plans. Naturally called upon to assume a commercial supremacy which nothing but lack of enterprise on our part can deprive us of, we must, to retain that position, speedily terminate our great Pacific lines. The English, who ever evince a determination to rival our undertakings, also contemplate a Pacific railroad, to start from the British provinces; but, owing to its geographical position, this line could never compete successfully with ours. The same, however, cannot be said of the Tehuantepec scheme, whereby the Atlantic and Pacific are to be connected and the resources of a naturally prolific country enormously developed. We have no desire to stir the progress of France; but we must rival her energetic strides towards increase of power and commerce. Our advantages are unrivalled; our enterprise should be boundless. Controlled by no superior will, Napoleon can bring to bear upon the great commercial schemes he has undertaken many favorable circumstances, and can, with the means at his command, carry them out quickly. There can exist no doubt that the prejudices of the French people against the Mexican invasion will disappear when they realize the plans which led Napoleon to undertake this project.

ant step, and that he will then be fully upheld in his violation of the Monroe doctrine by the sentiment of his subjects, who will be attracted by the prospect of future commercial prosperity and an increase of the prestige which France has gained of late.

Spite of Napoleon's energy and determination, his plan of a Tehuantepec railroad has one great danger ahead. It is inevitable that the people of this country, when they shall have settled their intestine troubles, must drive all European intruders from this continent, as Maximilian and his patron will find out to their cost. It may, perhaps, be a part of Napoleon's plan to obtain the guarantees of other European Powers as regards his railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific, by granting them rights of transportation; but even then the people of the United States must ultimately become possessed of this line. Still, our great aim must be to compete with this scheme by superior enterprise. If Napoleon can construct Pacific railroads we must do so, and by fair competition prevent any undue control by France over the commerce of the world.

## The Greatest Magician of Modern Times.

The Davenport Brothers are exceedingly clever miracle workers. They produce manifestations, demonstrations, emanations and speculations, and no one has yet been found wise enough to detect them in their wonderful performances. Heller is a very clever magician. He brings cannon balls out of hats, and candies out of a glass of water, and sees everything by a sort of second sight. Simmons is a clever magician. He makes a top spin on a thread, turns a piece of paper into a butterfly, shows blood red writing on his arm, and offers to cut off his head and place it on again if his audiences demand decapitation. But we have a magician among us greater than the Davenports, or Heller, or Simmons. His name is Shin Plaster Chase, and he presides over the Treasury Department.

Conjuror Chase makes more money than all the rest of the modern magicians put together, and he makes it more easily. Other magicians have to hire a hall, pay for posters and advertisements, employ ticket agents, and go to work like men of business. Chase, on the contrary, simply touches a piece of paper, and it is transformed into one hundred dollars. He touches a few more pieces of paper, and people take them for a million of dollars. Crowds follow him wherever he goes, and everybody is eager to get hold of some of this magic paper, which passes just as if it were real money. Never was a trick so apparently simple and yet so completely successful. The superiority of Conjuror Chase to all his rivals is shown by the fact that they do all their feats and exercise all their ingenuity merely in order to secure some of his money. Consequently he must have humbugged them quite as badly as he humbugged people generally, and must be acknowledged as their master.

There was once an ancient wizard, of whom we read in the Arabian Nights, who paid out money that changed to dried leaves and blank paper in the coffers of those who accepted it. That was a shrewd feat in its day; but we think that Conjuror Chase excels this ancient magician in one important respect. There is no evidence that the wizard ever transformed blank paper into money, as Conjuror Chase does, and therefore money is ahead. As for the trick of changing money into worthless paper, that is a mere bagatelle. Many financial magicians have accomplished it as neatly as the Arabian juggler. It is as easy as repudiation. Jeff. Davis has made a great hit with it down South. Perhaps Conjuror Chase may be induced to perform it, in a manner most astonishing to all concerned, before he finishes operations. But the trick of turning paper into money is much more difficult. Legerdemain Law failed in this, and juggling Jeff. Davis has ruined himself and his confederates by undertaking it. Conjuror Chase stands unequalled in that department of the art magic.

In old times there was a magician named Midas, whose slightest touch changed everything to gold. He is the only conjuror on record who ever surpassed Conjuror Chase. Had Chase taken the *Herald's* advice at the beginning of the war he might have been able to perform this mighty transmutation. But he decided that it would be better to change everything to paper, and so he was deaf to our arguments and our warnings. We are sorry for this; for we were very anxious that Chase should turn out well, and throw the magician Midas into the shade. Perhaps, however, we ought to be satisfied with his present performance, since no modern wizard can be compared to him, and we need say nothing more about the ancient gold manufacturer, who was not so much greater than Colorado Jewett after all. What is the use of gold—what is the use of Colorado Jewett—what is the use of the Arizona silver mines—what is the use of the Chevalier Mowry—when Conjuror Chase can make more money in a day out of a few reams of paper and a little printing ink than all the miners in the world could dig in a year's time? Chase's pen is mightier than Jewett's pickaxe. Chase's press is mightier than Mowry's quartz crushers. Chase himself is mightier than all the gold diggers in Wall street, Colorado, California, Arizona, Australia and the rest of creation.

Until the advent of Conjuror Chase we felt certain that we had achieved some very wonderful things with the printing press. We had made considerable money with it, in a steady, legitimate way, and we had made a great newspaper with it, having no rival in circulation and influence. But when Conjuror Chase began to use the printing press as his apparatus for his astounding feats we were satisfied to pay our taxes, look on and marvel that so honest and respectable a machine could be made to play such fantastic tricks. The Davenport acts an ordinary closet to become accessory to all kinds of diabolical. Heller uses a common bat to bewilder and confound the spectators. Simmons employs a pine stick as a magic wand. These things are strange; and yet they are confessedly inferior to Chase's matchless skill in coining bales of money from a lightning press, and manufacturing currency by a few strokes of the pen. To be sure we shall all have to pay pretty dearly for witnessing these experiments; but, then, is not so splendid a show worth a large price of admission? The best performers charge the most, as a matter of course. To be sure the people are obliged to hand over houses and lands, and merchandise and all kinds of articles, that the great conjuror may make use of them in his disquisitions; but that is most at every slight of hand exhibition, and the only difference is that this exhibition is

on a grander scale and requires grander city jools to work upon. Let us keep our seats until the show is over, and the magician of the age makes his final bow. Perhaps we shall have all our borrowed articles returned to us then, and can join in the applause when the curtains fall.

## The People's Convention at Cleveland.

The public are now watching the movements of the Union army with more than usual interest and anxiety. Whilst General Grant and his assistants, East and West, are busy marshaling their forces for the greatest struggle of the war, and have commenced in a contest that is not only to decide whether this contest is to be brought to an early and successful conclusion or linger for years, but which will also in a measure determine who is to be placed at the head of our government for the next four years, the politicians and President makers are equally actively engaged in maturing their plans for the nominating conventions. They are taking the opportunity, while the people are absorbed in the movements of our armies, to pack the conventions and secure the endorsement of their schemes, without regard to the interest and general good of the public. Thus the republican contractors, shoddyites and officeholders are to hold their convention in Baltimore early in June, and will doubtless nominate Abraham Lincoln, the representative of that interest. The so-called democratic party are to meet in Chicago in July, and place in the field an opposing candidate. It is evident, however, that the revolution which has been going on since the commencement of the rebellion has materially interfered with the plans of the politicians, especially on the republican side.

It will be seen by a reference to our columns elsewhere that a call has been issued for a People's Convention, to assemble in Cleveland on the 31st day of the present month. This will be attended and participated in by all the dissatisfied and discontented republicans and the war democracy. The indications are that it will be the most important convention of all. When we take in consideration the action of the republican Senators at Albany, in urging the postponement of the Baltimore Convention, in connection with the response from the people in all sections in favor of putting the nomination off to a later day, together with the movements at Washington in opposition to Lincoln, inside and outside of the halls of Congress, it can readily be seen that the Cleveland Convention bids fair to absorb the backbone and the real power and strength of the republican party outside of the contractors and the shoddy interests. A candidate for the Presidency will be nominated there, like Fremont, Grant or Banks, who can neither be cajoled nor backed down by the pipelayers and schemers who are managing the Baltimore farce. Its effect upon the coming Presidential campaign will therefore be of the most important character, and second only to the grand movements of our armies upon the armed forces of the so-called Southern confederacy. President Lincoln and his chief managers—Weed, Cameron and Forney—but little imagine the strength and power of the men who have committed themselves to the movement for this Cleveland Convention, and are secretly at work to make it a grand success. As a State Senator who signed the appeal to postpone the Baltimore Convention replied, when he was shown an attack upon him and his associates by one of the organs of Lincoln, "They do not know all that is going on. When the People's Convention meets they will open their eyes."

## The Campaign Begun—The Great Issues to be Determined.

The campaign that is to determine issues of the greatest moment to this country and to Europe has begun, and the desperate struggle perhaps already rages at one or more points in the rebel States. Under the great commander of the war, and distributed into several armies, we have a force in the field of not less than six hundred thousand men, and they are to decide within a few days one of the grandest questions that was ever put to the arbitrament of battle. Brought to its ultimate analysis, the question to be settled is whether or not a republican government has the vital power to sustain its existence against internecine as well as against foreign foes. Must a government originating in the people, and deriving its strength from their intelligence, inevitably fall a prey to their quarrels? Is that result in the history of republics a necessary consummation in their history, or is it only one of the many accidents of national life, that may be overridden by a greater people than any that have yet tried the solution of this great problem? It is the fact that this question is the really great one now at issue in our struggle that gives the struggle its intense interest with thinking men here and in Europe.

Europe has seen this issue grandly tried, and the decision has always been against the vitality of republics. Patriarchal governments and despotisms were natural to Asia. Her people gathered, as if with an instinct of servility, around some central power that they could look up to, whether in the family, in religion or in government; but the men of infant Europe had a stronger individuality, and only accepted kings when they proved themselves to be better than other men. Republican government, therefore, came early in European history, and under it Greece reached a degree of development that made her the dominant Power in the ancient world, and enabled her to dictate terms to the unwieldy monarchies that were hoary with age before her life began. Greece grew and flourished wonderfully under a republican system in peace, and in war overthrew all enemies. Yet she fell through domestic dissensions, and passed under the domination of a foreign Power only when weakened by civil strife. Rome had the same history. She adopted the forms of Grecian civilization, but fitted them with her own more rugged spirit. Her conquests were world-wide. She had no neighbors; for all that were near her became part of her. Luxury came with success, and then civil dissension tore the immense nationality piecemeal. Her pontifex maximus was poorly travestied into a modern priest, and that is all that is left of Rome. Some feeble attempts to establish a republican government in Europe have been made since that. France made one, and went wild with it, and England has made one; and Europe seems to feel satisfied that republican governments must inevitably fail.

But the problem is again on trial, and on a grander scale than ever; and the bravest and most intelligent people that ever tried it have not yet lost faith in the great idea. In the practical phases the question will be not as to whether